

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, July 25, 1996

Published Since 1877

## 67 years of BSU direction ends in retirement

By Betty Smith

Sixty-seven years of Baptist Student Union (BSU) work in Mississippi came to a close at the end of June with the retirement of two BSU directors.

Kathryn Bearden served at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) in Jackson for 39 years, and Roy Smith served at Copiah Lincoln Community College (Co-Lin) in Wesson for 28 years.

Bearden, a native of McComb and graduate of Mississippi College (MC), went to MBMC a few months after graduating from New Orleans Seminary. At that time, Gilfoy School of Nursing, with an enrollment of 200-250 students, was located on the grounds of the hospital.

Bearden recalled that when Ralph Winders, the director of the Department of Student Work for the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board (MBCB), contacted her about the job at the hospital, she said no.

"I didn't think I could work in a hospital," she said. "Just the sight of blood makes me weak."

After turning down the job a second time, she agreed to visit the hospital with Winders. When she walked into the hospital, she said she felt God's call so strongly that she accepted the position without even asking what the salary would be.

In 1971, Gilfoy School of Nursing was phased out to be replaced by the Allied Health Program with schools of medical technology, X-ray, respiratory therapy, and practical nursing. This called for major adjustments in the BSU program, Bearden said.

Rather than working with young women, most just out of high school, all living in dorms on campus, the new programs involved men and women — from teenagers to grandmothers — who lived all over the Jackson metro area as well as surrounding towns.

Bearden accepted the challenge and made changes in the program. All activities — Bible studies, mission events, planning meetings, choir practice, as well as individual counseling, had to be conducted during the daytime.

Bearden said, "I always felt that Baptist Hospital is a mission field. It was my challenge to reach students with the Christian message, then students could pass that message on to patients as they ministered to them."

Bearden will continue to live in McComb, where she is a member of First Church and a substitute adult Sunday School teacher. She also plans to spend some time fishing.

MBMC has established the Kathy Bearden Endowment Fund to provide scholarships for students in the Allied Health Program. For information, call (601) 968-1489, or write: The Trust, 1225 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39202.

Roy Smith, a native of Nettleton, is a graduate of MC and New Orleans Seminary. He came to Co-Lin from a pastorate in Debach, La.

There were about 600 students at the college when he began work, Smith said. Enrollment has grown to more than 1,600, with approximately half of the students commuting from surrounding areas. This change from on-campus students to commuters called for major changes in the BSU program, Smith said, but a full schedule of activities has continued throughout his tenure — worship services, Bible studies, spring and fall revivals, and mission trips.

Smith estimated that approximately 78 Co-Lin students have served as summer missionaries during his tenure, with an average of \$1,500 per year raised for the state BSU summer missions program. Students also served on staffs at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) assemblies, Camp Garaywa, and Central Hills Assembly.

In 1976 a Baptist Student Center was built on the campus to provide a base for the BSU program. The center was remodeled in 1995.

Smith said the greatest joy of his work has been his personal relationship with students, seeing them grow and mature in their Christian lives.

Smith and his wife Opal, a Gilfoy School of Nursing graduate, will continue to live in Wesson, where Opal works for the Lincoln County Health Department. They have two



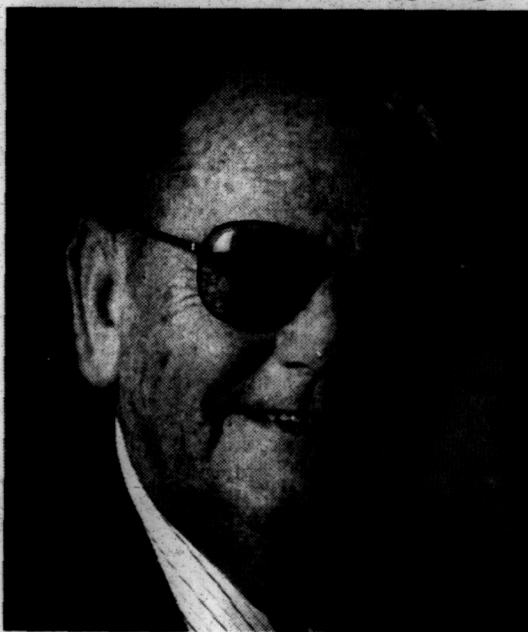
Kathy Bearden

children and two grandchildren.

When asked about plans for retirement, Smith said, "Well, I plan to goof off some. Also, I raise exotic animals — from pet pigs to boar goats. I will also be available for supply preaching and interim pastorates."

Jerry Merriman, director of the Department of Student Work for the MBCB, said, "I appreciate the commitment Kathy and Roy have for BSU work, their willingness to do whatever it took to get the job done, their flexibility in meeting the needs of students in our changing society. Because of their dedication, many students have been blessed and encouraged in their Christian development."

Smith is a retired Baptist Record employee, and a free-lance writer. She lives in McComb.



Roy Smith

### Facing racism

Islamic conversions among African-Americans can be turned around if Southern Baptists face racism and other challenges in the black community, contends Willie McPherson, director of black church extension at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. "The challenge of the Nation of Islam must become the problem of all Southern Baptists, not just African-Americans. When we deal with the issue of racism, we will solve the Islamic problem because their tool of recruitment will no longer exist," he said. Describing the Southern Baptist Convention's 1995 resolution on racial reconciliation a "giant step" that will affect other issues, McPherson said, "Moving forward in this area will make facing the other challenges much easier." McPherson said researchers predict America will have no clear ethnic majority by the middle of the next century. "This trend will continue to create a need for cross-cultural relationships," he pointed out. McPherson also called on Southern Baptists to help foster an increased sense of family in the black community, where 51% of families have only one parent at home. "We must challenge every law that will cause a man to leave his family in order for them to live decently — i.e., welfare."

### Denying self

Popular Christian author Elisabeth Elliott is convinced the current fascination with finding oneself is in direct opposition to Jesus' instruction to his followers. "How can we be preoccupied with self-image and self-actualization and at the same time be denying ourself and taking up the cross and following Jesus? It's not going to work. It won't do at all. It's either/or," she pointed out. "I really don't see how any of us are going to be leaders of the sort that Jesus spoke of unless we completely divert ourselves of our popular notions today of self-actualization and self-esteem," said the host of "Gateway to Joy," broadcast on 200 U.S. radio stations. Elliott's husband Jim was one of five missionaries killed in 1956 by the Auca Indians in South America. Elliott and her daughter later served as missionaries to the tribe. "The best way to find out whether or not you have a servant heart is to see what your reaction is when somebody treats you like one," she said. Elliott stressed that followers of Christ should not be surprised or dismayed when they suffer for their convictions. "How do we expect to follow one who took up a cross and not encounter suffering? When the will of God cuts across the will of man, somebody has to die. Leaders are meant to be... losers of ourselves (and) of our rights," she said.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

The college and career Sunday School class of Pelahatchie Church volunteers to help refurbish Laurel Lake Baptist Camp in Kentucky — sanding and painting 95 chairs; cleaning and painting several buildings; and hauling away hundreds of loads of underbrush.

#### 20 years ago

Santee Baptist Mission in Jefferson Davis County sets a new Mississippi Baptist record when a two-week revival resulting in 53 baptisms moves the new mission's two-month total to 100 professions of faith — more than the mission's 83 original members.

#### 50 years ago

D.A. McCall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, encourages churches to bid on surplus World War II military chapels, presently stored at the Camp Shelby Military Area near Hattiesburg, as a way to start new missions and churches.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.

## Remember Robert Hussein

Robert Hussein's unfortunate ordeal has mobilized an entire denomination and, hopefully, all of Christendom.

Hussein, a shy, diminutive Kuwaiti Christian, has been in hiding since he was sentenced to death in his Muslim homeland for openly professing his Christianity (see "FMB denounces ruling of death to Kuwait Christian," page 3, July 18 issue).

A Muslim Kuwaiti judge stripped the 45-year-old businessman of his wife and two children, his construction business, and just about every worldly possession he ever had. The judge then recommended that Hussein be executed for his apostasy by a Muslim cleric.

What's the real story? It seems Hussein committed a crime by breaking with the traditional low-key approach taken by most Christian converts in Kuwait.

He openly speaks of his Christianity, wears a cross, and carries his Bible wherever he goes. He is intent on spreading the gospel and he refuses to cower before worldly authorities.

"He felt that God is issuing to him that he couldn't be a silent Christian," said Maurice Graham, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Kuwait who met Hussein earlier this year.

Hussein's appeal of the judge's ruling is scheduled for Sept. 15. If you haven't done so already, you must stop whatever you're doing right now and pray for this righteous man and his family.

After you pray, take time to write a letter of protest on Hussein's behalf to:

His Highness Shaikh Saud Al-Sabah  
Crown Prince & Prime Minister  
The State of Kuwait  
P.O. Box 4  
Safat, KUWAIT 13001

Write it now so it will arrive before the appeal is heard, and be sure to affix international postage.

You can also write the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States:

Mohammed Sabah Al-Salim  
The State of Kuwait Chancery  
2940 Tilden St. NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Hussein's plight should serve as a call to be in constant prayer for persecuted believers around the world. Kuwait certainly isn't alone in its hatred of Christianity.

Sudanese Christians are being slaughtered and their children sold into prostitution and slavery, according to documented reports in such mainstream secular media as **The Wall Street Journal**.

Torture and death are always a few paces behind Chinese Christians, as communist officials seek to destroy underground churches and religious leaders. This persecution, too, has been fully documented by religious and human rights groups.

Lest you feel smug about your

own constitutionally-protected American religious freedom, recall the revealing observation made recently by a prominent federal government official: "Yes, we've had a lot of calls on that issue, but mostly from Christians."

What can one Christian do? Pray without ceasing, and never underestimate the power of prayer before our heavenly Father.

We would also do well to remember the timeless words of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when the most powerful worldly authority of their day threatened them with a horrible death:

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it... But even if he does not, we want you to know, O King, that we will not serve your gods...." (Dan. 3:17-18, NIV).

Amen!

## Guest Opinion...

## Do preachers live in the real world?

By Jerry Mixon

The speaker was well meaning. He was addressing professors and students — some who were looking for a church, others serving as student pastors and various other staff positions.

He was on the campus for a week of special lectures. His opening remark lost me. He told us to get out and live in the real world. I tried to listen but my mind began to wander, remembering.

Rewind. Play. I thought of the past month. Real world. I had been there. Seen it. Done it. Even had a T-shirt to prove it. I had been to the graveside twice.

A young man went to be with the Lord and his family was left in the shock of his untimely death. I was supposed to supply answers. I tried, but I am sure I was not too successful.

The graveside was visited again

as I stood reading words of comfort from the Bible. It was my duty and honor to supply some kind of comfort. The family asked why their baby only lived a few hours.

The week before, I had been with a couple to the altar. A wedding. Joy. Bird seed. Seed that I had to sweep from the sidewalks.

Hospital — been there, too. Sat with a family while their son underwent surgery. We all sat helpless in the waiting room knowing all we could do was pray.

My talents for plumbing had been tested when a water leak at the church had to be repaired. Electrical skills were rusty, but I was able to repair the wiring in our home.

Trips back to the seminary were times of stress and prayer. Tires were of the "maypop" brand, so thin you could read a newspaper through them. We prayed because we knew they might pop any minute.

Seminary bills. Doctor bills. Phone bill. Hospital bills. Our church provided no health care insurance. My wife was pregnant.

Family problems. I had been too busy. Studying. Praying. Visiting. I had not been paying atten-

tion to my family. Guilt. Anger. Frustration. I felt all of them.

One woman had carved me up and down because there was no tissue paper in the ladies' rest room on Sunday.

Some boys had punched holes in my baptismal waders which I did not discover until I was in the water.

My mother had been sick and I was concerned because I had not been able to visit her lately.

Several boys from the church had damaged mail boxes in the community and I was asked to intervene with local authorities on their behalf. One teenager had come to me for counseling because her boy friend was on drugs.

I had recently received a letter from a church member who wanted to know where I stood on the second coming of Christ. I was for it. I was wishing he would come now, before finals. Before deacons' meeting. Today.

I had watched all of my 50 tomato plants die. I had cleaned the church grounds of beer cans thrown by passing motorists. I had found homes for two stray dogs dumped at the church. I had painted the eaves of the church and tried — but failed — to clean the gunk from the church kitchen stove.

An 18-year-old girl had asked me why she had cancer. I tried to explain, but really had no explanation. I was still wrestling with con-

victions of my own and felt guilty because I did not already have them settled.

I traveled 300 miles round trip each week to seminary with my wife and young son — in a Volkswagen. No room. Packed full. The baby carriage was tied on the front.

In response to the speaker's statement, I began to think: "Isn't this the real world? Where does this guy live? How often does he deal with broken homes, broken promises, bad tires, and business meetings?"

"When did he last attend a family reunion, funeral, or try to have fun with the youth group? Has he ever sat with a widow, performed a wedding, and wondered how to pay the bills?"

"Does he ever sit with sorrow, sigh with sad parents, and struggle with spiritual problems? Does he have it all together? Packed? Bound neatly?"

Not me. I live on the corner of Pain and Main. My house is like a fish bowl. Church members drop in and out like they have a key. If this is not the real world, then tell me his address. I am not looking to move there. I just want to know where he lives. Mars maybe? Not here. Not now.

Preachers don't just live there in the real world, we pastor it.

Psalm 27:1: "The Lord is strength of my life."

Mixon is pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale.



## The Baptist Record

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# Garaywa lodge committee reviews architectural plans

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The proposed \$1.1 million adult lodge at Camp Garaywa in Clinton will include 30 flexible rooming units, a 100-seat conference room, and a service kitchen, according to preliminary architectural drawings submitted July 12 to the Garaywa lodge building committee.

Dell Scoper of Laurel, committee chair, said the new lodge at the state's Girls in Action (GA) campground will be geared toward the increasing number of adult meetings being held at the centrally-located facility.

She pointed out that the present cabin system used for GA camp weeks does not work well for adult meetings.



"The units in the lodge will be spacious, motel-sized rooms that will accommodate varying numbers of individuals in different configurations. There will also be handicapped-accessible units," Scoper said.

The second floor will feature a screened porch, with balcony rails built all around, she added.

Architect Larry Sones of Brandon was hired by the committee to design the lodge. He has extensive experience in church and campground design.

Sones is a member of First Church, Brandon, where he serves as a deacon.

Scoper said the building committee will meet Aug. 26 to finalize the lodge's site selection, and to discuss financial and promotional plans.

A fundraising campaign is being designed around the theme, "Hand in Hand Garaywa Expands," which was proposed by Martha Ellen Marler, a former foreign missionary and member of the building committee.

A special category of giving is also being established for individuals and groups wishing to endow a room in the lodge in memory or in honor of specific people, Scoper said.

For more information on the Garaywa lodge project, contact Woman's Missionary Union Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.



Kate Naumes (right), member of Forest Cove Church in Kingwood, Texas, makes a final cut on a stair stringer board as Bobby Gardner, member of Highland Church, Vicksburg, double-checks the board's measurements. Naumes was working as a World Changer on a home on St. Catherine Street in Natchez, while Gardner served as a construction support volunteer for the project. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## World Changers tackle 47 Mississippi projects

By William H. Perkins Jr.

More than 500 young people from across the Southern Baptist Convention braved the hot Mississippi summer sun to help the needy on 47 World Changer volunteer projects in Vicksburg and Natchez.

Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said 164 young people in Vicksburg and 368 young people in Natchez spent a week rehabilitating older homes for residents who could not afford the repairs or were physically unable to do the work themselves.

The young people were supervised in Vicksburg by 28 adults, known as construction support volunteers, and by 34 adults in Natchez, Harrell said.

The national program is coordinated by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, while state Brotherhood organizations provide management and oversight for the projects within their borders.

A local school is usually enlisted as a headquarters and sleeping facility for the participants, Harrell said. Local churches and organizations supply meals for workers while they are in town.

Participants engage in evangelism in the poor, inner-city neighborhoods in which they are working, and they have nightly Bible studies to which neighborhood residents are invited, Harrell said.

"World Changers has been a phenomenal success, growing from 135 young people and one project in Briceville, Tenn., in 1990, to 9,000 young people nationwide today," he said.

Young people interested in volunteering for 1997 can contact the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

Adults interested in volunteering as construction support supervisors can contact the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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## Petal woman's dedication leads to \$257,000 missions bequest

By William H. Perkins Jr.

"Aunt Lucille" Carter was, to say the least, frugal.

Family members recalled after the 91-year old Petal woman's death on April 1, 1995, how she squeezed her electric and gas bills by using window air conditioners sparingly in the summer and space heaters on low setting in the winter.

Aunt Lucille, a charter member of Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, did her own yard work and drove a well-maintained 1962 Chevrolet — which was still in good enough shape to hand down to her great-nephew when she died last year.

She considered her personal finances so private that even niece Kathy Boyd of Brandon, the executor of her will, and other close relatives didn't know the small fortune she amassed through penny-pinching and savvy investments.

It therefore came as a complete surprise to everyone when Boyd opened Aunt Lucille's will and discovered she had left \$257,000 to the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, to be given through Beacon Church.

The Lottie Moon Offering, administered by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) in Richmond, Va., is used to support more than 4,000 Southern Baptist missionaries around the world.

A special service was held June 9 at Beacon Church to commemorate Aunt Lucille and the lifetime of material sacrifices that enabled such a remarkable gift.

"Her life was so interwoven with honoring him (Jesus). Thirty percent of the people in the world don't have access to the gospel, but there is good news — God is at work," said Mississippi native Lewis Myers, a former foreign missionary currently serving as FMB vice-president for World "A".

Myers attended the service with FMB treasurer Carl Johnson. Johnson noted that Carter's gift is sufficient to support a missionary couple overseas for 12 years.

Boyd applauded Beacon Church members for providing a spiritual home for her twice-widowed aunt, who had no children.

"Aunt Lucille loved you, and you returned her love. Her family wants to say 'thank you.' We know that her bequest goes out with the love of this church," Boyd said.

Keith Manuel, Beacon Church pastor, noted that Carter was instrumental in the church's development from the beginning, and she always focused on missions.

"This gift is characteristic of the way she lived her life and how much she loved the Lord," he said.



Carter



Keith Manuel (front), pastor of Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, presents the check representing church member Lucille Carter's \$257,000 foreign missions bequest to Carl Johnson (right), treasurer of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB), and Lewis Myers (second from right), FMB vice-president for World "A". On hand for the special June 9 commemoration service were Meredith Dawsey (left), Carter's brother; Kathy Boyd (second from left), Carter's niece and executor of her will; and Anna Dinkins (center) church treasurer and Carter's longtime friend. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





## Families flock to Gulfshore

Yvonne (right) and Krista Bates (center), along with Cathy Ethridge of Collinsville, sign up for TeamKID at a recent Family Week celebration, held at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. There were 252 present from 33 churches at the event, held annually at Mississippi Baptists' Gulf Coast retreat center. Family Week for 1997 is scheduled for July 1-5.

## Baptist Press director defends Graham quote on Jewish evangelism

NASHVILLE (BP) — A quote from evangelist Billy Graham in reference to the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) resolution on Jewish evangelism has been taken out of context in news media reports, according to Herb Hollinger, press representative for the SBC.

Hollinger said the evangelist's June 18 quote has been interpreted by a number of media outlets as distancing himself from the resolution on Jewish evangelism approved at the annual meeting of the SBC in New Orleans June 11-13.

However, at the time Graham was asked about the SBC resolution, he was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for a physical checkup, a Billy Graham Evangelistic Association spokesperson said.

The question asked Graham by the Charlotte (N.C.) **Observer** was in relation to Jewish evangelism but Graham did not know at the time that the SBC had passed a resolution on the subject nor did he see the resolution himself, Hollinger said the spokesperson told him.

Graham was traveling June 26 and unavailable for comment, the spokesperson said.

The eight-paragraph resolution quotes Jesus' command, Luke 24:27, to preach "repentance and remission of sins... in his name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem."

It also cites an indebtedness to the Jewish people, points to an organized effort "on the part of some either to deny that Jewish people need to come to their Messiah, Jesus, to be saved," and resolves to commit "ourselves to prayer, especially for the salvation

of the Jewish people as well as for the salvation of 'every kindred and tongue and people and nation' (Rev. 5:9)."

Graham's quote said, "When I first took a preaching tour of Israel, I stayed with Mrs. Golda Meier who was then foreign secretary, and promised her that I was not there to proselytize. Rather, I was there to thank the Jewish people for proselytizing me, having put my faith in a Jew who was born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth."

"I have never taken part in organizations or projects that especially targeted Jews. I preach the gospel to any and all who come to our meetings — whether Muslim, Buddhist, Jew, Christian, or people of no faith — they are all welcome."

"I hold a number of awards that Jewish organizations have been gracious enough to give me. I have a great love and burden for the Jewish people, among whom I have many dear friends."

Hollinger said he had read several newspaper accounts of the Graham quote in which writers said Graham was distancing himself from the SBC resolution on Jewish evangelism.

"News media who take Graham's statement to be opposed to the SBC resolution are guilty of taking his statement out of context," Hollinger said. "Graham loves the Jewish people and, like his Southern Baptist brethren, wants all people to hear the gospel and respond in faith to Jesus Christ."

Hollinger is also the vice president for convention news for the SBC Executive Committee and director of Baptist Press, the national news service for the SBC.

# New SBC president issues call for convocations at seminaries

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP) — The president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has issued an invitation to Southern Baptist ministers to attend one-day convocations at seven seminaries with "preaching, singing, and powerful praying as we turn our hearts toward God."

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., issued the invitation in a July 15 letter to Southern Baptist pastors, state convention executive directors, state Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, and division directors, and associational directors of missions. More than 40,000 of the letters were sent in a cooperative effort by the SBC president and the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB).

Labeled an "urgent invitation," Elliff said the 20th century "is rapidly drawing to a close. Tragically, this could be the first century in our nation's history to pass without a great, sweeping move of God. Will that be the case? Many of us believe the Lord is saying 'turn to me!' He is calling us to revival; calling us to the cross; calling us to the crucified life."

Elliff said the seminaries are opening their campuses for the day "when all energies and interests will be focused on revival." He urged Southern Baptists to find the nearest campus, "on the day most suited to your schedule."

Primarily directed to Southern Baptist pastors and leaders, the convocations will be a day in which at least three generations of SBC ministers join hearts in "crying out to God for revival in the land," Elliff said.

James T. Draper Jr., BSSB president, said the board believes the cause of renewal, revival, and spiritual awakening is "so important that we were glad to underwrite this mailing."

"I hope thousands of Southern Baptists will respond to our president's invitation and attend these convocations," Draper said.

Each convocation beings at 10 a.m. Meeting dates and locations:

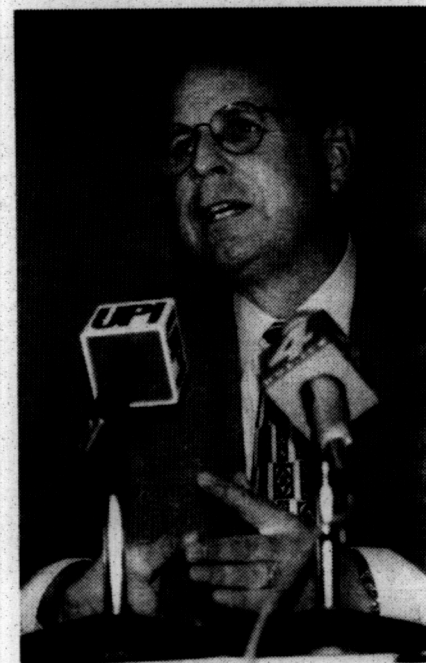
— Aug. 29, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

— Sept. 3, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

— Sept. 4, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

— Sept. 10, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

— Sept. 11, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.



Tom Elliff

— Sept. 12, New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans, La.

A convocation also will be held Sept. 5 at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Elliff said.

Elliff said, "Come as early and stay as long as you like.... I urge you to begin praying now for a mighty moving of God during these days. Such a concerted effort, touching lives, churches and campuses, will be in vain 'unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.'"

Elliff, a former missionary to Africa, was elected president of the SBC at the June 11-13 annual meeting in New Orleans.

Ronnie Floyd, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., asked Southern Baptists to make four commitments: to issue a call for prayer and fasting on Sunday morning, Oct. 27; hold a "solemn assembly" that Sunday evening to call people to repentance for sin; observe Wednesday, Oct. 30, as a day of humiliation, prayer, and fasting for personal, church, and national revival; and use both morning and evening services on Sunday, Nov. 3, to focus on the subject of revival.

To assist churches in preparing for the emphasis on prayer and fasting, the BSSB will send a mailing to churches about Aug. 1.

The mailing will include a letter from Draper, a guide to prayer and fasting by Floyd, and an audio tape with Floyd's message from the SBC meeting and a message on family values by Josh McDowell, founder of the national Right from Wrong campaign.

## CBF wants chaplains endorsed; says "No" to convention status

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Members of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship approved a process to endorse CBF chaplains, voted no on becoming a separate convention, heard a report indicating difficulty in finding a new chief executive, and appointed 41 new missionaries at the CBF General Assembly, June 27-29, in Richmond, Va.

The sixth assembly of the five-year-old moderate Baptist organization registered 3,809 people with about 4,000 attending the two evening worship services at the Richmond Coliseum. The CBF, a protest movement against Southern Baptist Convention leadership, is a response to the victory by a "conservative resurgence" in a battle begun in 1979 with moderate Southern Baptists.

A vote on the much-discussed question of separate convention status for the fellowship came when Bill Montgomery, retired chaplain from San Antonio, Texas, repeated his failed 1995 motion to declare the CBF a separate convention. The CBF during the year had conducted a study of the matter but it drew no conclusions.

The leadership of the CBF vocally opposed the convention status and the Saturday morning vote by the General Assembly was overwhelmingly negative as well. Earlier a motion to table the matter had been ruled out of order by the chair.

Montgomery said too many CBF supporters do not want to "cut the apron strings" to the SBC.

The chaplaincy issue, however, seemed to indicate

many CBF people are concerned about their place in the SBC.

Two motions were offered to the General Assembly concerning the chaplaincy endorsement, one by Barbara Donaldson, Dandridge, Tenn., and one by David O. Moore, Liberty, Mo.

Donaldson's motion was merged with Moore's and the motion was carried with only a smattering of "no" votes.

The CBF's Coordinating Council will appoint an ad hoc committee "whose purpose shall be to develop a proposal, and make application to, the appropriate governmental agencies and other certifying entities, in which approval is sought for certification of applicants to the ministry of chaplaincy in the various areas where religious group certification is required...." The committee will report back at the 1997 General Assembly in Louisville, Ky.

The assembly approved a \$14,102,000 budget for 1996-97, of which \$3,950,000 is expected from the Global Missions Offering. The budget goal is 6% above the previous year, far short of the double-digit increases of the CBF's first years.

Included in that budget are: Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, \$293,000; Associated Baptist Press, \$160,000; Baptists Today, \$55,000; Baptist Theological Seminary, Richmond, \$391,600; Truett Seminary, Waco, Texas, \$191,700; Mercer Divinity School, Atlanta, \$341,700; and Central (American) Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, \$200,000.



# SBC official challenges Eisner over response to Disney boycott

NASHVILLE (BP) — Michael Eisner, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Walt Disney Company, in his first quoted reaction to Southern Baptists' threatened boycott, said:

"We think they're a very small group of the Southern Baptists that took a very extreme position, which we think is foolish. They seem to have been off on a tangent this year."

Eisner was quoted June 24 in a Los Angeles *Daily News* article. The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) adopted a resolution targeting Disney during its June 11-13 annual meeting in New Orleans because the company's "moral leadership has been eroded," according to the SBC resolution.

Eisner's comments were challenged by Bill Merrell, vice president for convention relations for the SBC's Executive Committee.

"Traditional family values are neither, as Mr. Eisner suggests, a 'tangent' or an 'extreme,'" Merrell said in a five-paragraph statement June 25. "Disney Company has been the trusted friend of families for decades. But that well-earned trust and the carefully nurtured image as a trustworthy provider of family entertainment is at risk."

Merrell continued: "It boggles the mind as to the depth of change in Disney. From phallic jacket art on one of its children's videos to the inclusion of an 800 number for a telephone sex service in one of its 'family' movies, it is plain that someone at Disney clearly has an agenda — and it is not the agenda of the traditional family."

"Its newest G-rated offering, 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame,' supposedly aimed at the childhood market, corrupts the original story line to include what *Time* magazine has called 'lechery and lust.' Alan Menken, composer of the Hunchback musical score, told *USA Today*, 'In one song we have (a character) sing the church

liturgy but also sing of twisted sexual fantasies.'"

"This is to say nothing of (Disney's) anti-Christian film, 'Priest,' or its guide for adolescent homosexuals, 'Growing Up Gay,' or its choice of a convicted child molester to direct the movie, 'Powder,' or its altered company policy to recognize homosexual partnerships for employee benefits," Merrell said.

"Disney has plainly taken the low road in its new corporate direction — a road that some close observers have said company founder Walt Disney would heartily disapprove," Merrell's statement concluded.

"It has lost the confidence of many families and is squandering its hard-earned heritage as foremost entertainer to the American family. If family concerns are to be dismissed and those who raise them are to be marginalized by Disney, I predict that the erosion of trust will only increase."

The 1-800 number cited by Merrell, according to recent news reports, was in the Disney movie, "The Santa Clause," in a line spoken by its lead actor, Tim Allen. The 1-800 number is a telephone sex number that remained in operation June 26.

The SBC resolution encourages Southern Baptists "to give serious and prayerful reconsideration" to whether to attend Disney theme parks and purchase Disney products — and to boycott Disney if it continues "this anti-Christian and antifamily trend."

The resolution cited five examples of Disney "corporate decisions, which have included but are not limited to: 1) granting insurance benefits to partners of homosexual employees; 2) hosting homosexual "theme nights" at its parks; 3) a subsidiary's hiring of a convicted child molester to direct the movie, "Powder;" 4) a subsidiary's publication of a book

aimed at homosexual teenagers; and 5) a subsidiary's production of the movie "Priest," which "disparages Christian values and depicts Christian leaders as morally defective."

Criticism of Disney practices also was voiced last fall by messengers to the Florida Baptist Convention.

The SBC resolution asked the Christian Life Commission "to monitor Disney's progress in returning to its previous philosophy of producing enriching family entertainment."

A statement by Disney officials in California immediately after the SBC's resolution, the only other quoted statement to date, noted: "We find it curious that a group that claims to espouse family values would vote to boycott the world's largest producer of wholesome family entertainment. We question any group that demands that we deprive people of health benefits and we know of no tourist destination in the world that denies admission to people as the Baptists are insisting we do."

A Los Angeles-area pastor, Wiley Drake, who gained messengers' approval of an amendment adding the boycott threat to the resolution from the SBC Resolutions Committee, charged Disney officials with misinterpreting the protest.

"We're not insisting they deny admission to homosexuals" or deny health insurance to employees, he said, "just asking Disney not to promote beliefs that are against the Judeo-Christian lifestyle."

## Tupelo's AFA mails Disney packet to 28,500 Southern Baptist pastors

TUPELO (BP) — Southern Baptist pastors looking for additional reasons to support a boycott of the Walt Disney Company will be finding them in their mailboxes.

Messengers to the 1996 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in New Orleans passed a resolution asking Disney to return to family values in entertainment, or face a potential boycott by SBC members.

On July 3, the American Family Association (AFA) mailed packets to 28,500 Southern Baptist pastors containing a letter and fact sheet explaining reasons for the boycott and a list of Disney's products.

The packet will include a postcard that can be returned to the chairman of Disney's board of directors, Michael Eisner.

AFA President Don Wildmon said AFA has printed 500,000 boycott cards, which are perforated to allow the sender to mail a message to Eisner and retain the product list.

The AFA also is mailing a series of public service announcements (PSA) to approximately

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## N'west Association gets busy

Northwest Association recently sponsored a workday at the Ervin Brown Training Center in Eudora. Men who helped with the project included: (above photo, from left, front) Ervin Brown, Robert Wilkins, Joe Taylor, Lloyd Ford; (on roof top) Ken Dunlap, and Oscar Geeslin. The Association also sponsored a Vacation Bible School clinic in Hernando. Michelle Taylor (below) holds an "Olympic torch" to illustrate the theme of the 1996 VBS materials, "Go for the Goal."



## Goes right here

Harold Manuel (right), member of First Church, Ocean Springs, points out the position for a replacement post to World Changer Jason Crockrell, member of Bethlehem Church, Knightdale, N.C. Manuel, who serves each summer as a World Changers construction support volunteer, and Crockrell were working on a house on St. Catherine Street in Natchez. For a report on the 47 World Changers projects in Mississippi, please turn to page 3. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

1,200 Christian radio stations.

Wildmon said these outlets generally have been supportive of past boycotts by airing the PSAs.

Boycotts generally take up to two years to have an impact, Wildmon said, adding because of Disney's size, it could take two and a half to three years before the company sees any difference on its bottom line.

"I've done this for 20 years and I know how it works," the Methodist minister said.

"If the SBC or AFA calls for a boycott, you're not going to see any effect in 30 days."

"It's foolish to think you are. But if you aggressively promote it... you'll see an impact."

"We're getting feedback from the public about Disney, wanting information or verification (of its actions)."

"This is the way boycotts normally catch on, from the grassroots level."

"I saw an editorial from the *Texas Catholic*, the diocese paper for Dallas, which has endorsed it. I expect other denominations to come on board," Wildmon said.

Wildmon acknowledged the company's size will make the battle extremely difficult and make it hard for people to avoid all contact.

Given the situation, he said participants should shun Disney products at a level that is comfortable for them.

A boycott is something you can't force people to participate with, he said. Obviously, not all Christians will participate; some don't agree with the idea of boycotts, he added.

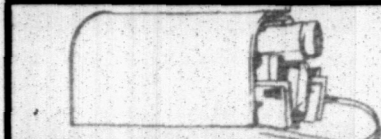
Despite criticism of the measure, he said he expects it will eventually register when viewers either cancel or refuse to take cable's Disney Channel and stop purchasing other Disney products.

"This is a matter of Christian stewardship," Wildmon said.

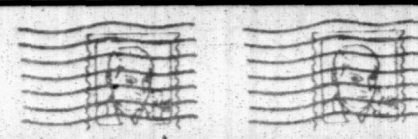
"It's about spending your money where it would make a difference for the kingdom of God, and where it would not be detrimental to his kingdom."

"You don't fight battles because you can win 'em. You fight them because they're the right battles to fight, and this is the right battle to fight," he said.





# Letters to the editor



## Rightly-divided truth

Editor:

It saddens my heart that some pastors and men in leadership of God's house cannot or refuse to see the truth when it is as clear as the nose on one's face. In the letter to you on June 20, 1996 ("Bias is no secret"), a pastor says it all in three lines: "We Southern Baptists pay you a good salary to report good things" (Paragraph 2, lines 6, 7, 8). This statement has brought to my mind three others: two made by Jesus in Matthew 21:12-13 and Mark 13:1-6; and one by Peter in Acts 8:20-23. God doesn't need our money. He wants our undivided attention and our boldness to speak out. Telling the good and covering the evil has caused many Christians who love the Lord Jesus Christ with all their hearts to leave today's "church" and take a stand for truth. The light of this is in 2 Thessalonians 2, and will come out in the open, too, someday.

[Also in the June 20 issue] Eddie Bates' letter, "Sick of the rivalry," is to be commended, and a big "Amen" to him. His letter and 2 Thessalonians 2 go hand in hand. We shouldn't be sick or upset. We should be looking up, for our Redeemer is coming soon.

But for now, I am sure many others will agree with me that you deserve every penny you were paid, and you are to be commended for your honesty. The integrity you have shown us these six years as our editor has been encouraging to those of us who desire to do what is right. Thank you, Brother Henderson. The wisdom God gave you, you in turn gave to us in "Letters," "Notebook," and "The Fragments." By rightly dividing the truth it has shown us out here that money can not rule every man, no matter how big the check is. It is my prayer that your heart and eyes stay focused on God's truth and your convictions. You will be greatly missed. May God richly bless you as only he can do.

Charlotte P. Jenkins  
Laurel

## Making memories

Editor:

We've all heard our forebears talk of the "good old days." Judging by the fondness of their memories and the frequency with which they are spoken of one might quickly gather that these must have been the best days of their lives.

I've not yet seen as many days as my parents and grandparents, but I can honestly say that the years I've spent in college have been the best years of my life.

Student life at William Carey College has been just as fulfilling as academic life. I've made lifelong friends who are a great influence on my life. While at William Carey I also met and grew to love the one I now joyfully call my

wife. I am currently serving as pastor of County Line Church in Jones County.

Mississippi Baptists have played a large role in making sure that scholarships are made available to ministerial students like myself. Through the Board of Ministerial Education and other agencies your gifts to our state convention help to provide various scholarships and monthly aid.

May God bless your life as he has mine.

J. Macon Phillips  
Ovett

## Gift for a lifetime

Editor:

As a graduating senior from William Carey College I have many great memories that I will keep for a lifetime. There were many events sponsored by the school that helped break all the tension from classes and studies.

In so many ways the Southern Baptists support us, while we are furthering our education. One of the biggest burdens that all students must face are finances, but again the Board of Ministerial Education reached out to us through the Church Related Vocation Fellowship.

Thomas Lee Edwards  
Hattiesburg

## Civility amidst ruin

Editor:

Church burnings hurt communities at deep levels, not necessarily rational ones. To have one's place of worship destroyed tears at points of one's identity which cannot be quantified.

Interestingly this distress is not confined only to those communities which have experienced church burnings. The trauma effect is felt in much wider circles. I have held, over the years, residency in three of the states where churches have been burned. To some degree I sense the injury because of those connections. In some cases I am only one or two acquaintances removed from people directly affected by these burnings. In short, their distress has become something of my distress, too.

An inevitable question is, "Why burn churches?" A few analysts maintain, for instance, that not all these burnings are racially oriented. There are in some countings not as many black church fires this year at last; not all are black churches, but white ones are burned as well, these analysts intone; other fires are copycat fires; and, on and on. The implication is that some motives are not as bad as others for burning a church to the ground; that, for instance, as long as a white church burns that makes a black church burning not quite as bad. Does that mean for these analysts an occasional church fire is okay? Indeed, I hope not. One church burning, for whatever reason, is

one church burning too many.

A paradox in these developments is the response of those who have been directly affected by a church burned. Over and over these ministers and church members have responded not vindictively but kindly, even forgivingly. They demonstrate an extraordinary amount of character in the light of extraordinary loss. Theirs is a response of civility in an uncivil world — something the burners, for whatever reason they are fire setters, have not yet learned at the soul level.

William M. Tillman Jr.  
Fort Worth, Texas

*Editor's Note: Tillman is associate professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.*

## The final salvo

Editor:

It was evident from the June 27 issue that the editor was on his way out and wanted to fire his final salvo against the will of the people of the Southern Baptist Convention, and incidentally against the will of God.

I am appalled at the arrogance of Guy Henderson in the printing of his open letter to Bailey Smith, and on the same page, the guest opinion by R.K. Houston concerning the SBC's decision to boycott Disney.

This fellow must not be aware of the biblical mandate for Christians to come out from among them and be separate (2 Cor. 6:17).

How in the world have we existed for these past decades without taking a godly stand against this abomination (homosexuality) in the eyes of God?

It is evident that there are many in our midst who care not what pleases the Lord and they find it hard to accept that they backed the losers in the convention's revival and coming back to the God of the Word.

I, for one, am not concerned with who leads the Convention, other than I want men who find no problem in saying what God has already said.

These types of angry missiles toward God, and that's who both the letter and the guest opinion by Houston were directed to, are the last gasps of the liberals and moderates who must have their way even at the expense of the truth.

Mr. Houston's defense of his intention to remain worldly is only highlighted by his misuse of Scripture.

He quoted Christ's handling of the woman caught in adultery, but of course, quoted it to suit his purpose. Christ did not accept this woman's sin. What Jesus did in that instance was to say in essence to those who had brought this woman to judgment: If you are what you profess to be, go ahead and stone this adulteress. To think otherwise is to call Christ a liar when he spoke in Matt. 5:17:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill."

It's high time we who call ourselves Southern Baptist began to support the truth of God, as God has clearly spoken it to us in his Word, the Bible.

The question that was answered by the majority of those who make up the convention as it now stands is: God is still on his throne and his Word, the Bible, stands sure and inerrant despite some attempts to make it submit to our culture.

Come and stand with us as we join hands and take an infallible Word from the inerrant Word of God and speak it without apology to a world that lingers in the morass of sin.

Bob Sheppard  
Terry

## Sin versus opposition

Editor:

I feel I must comment on the guest opinion written by R.K. Houston of Bay Springs and published in the June 27 edition of **The Baptist Record**. The issue of the boycott of Disney is certainly controversial, and I suppose, somewhat painful to some, especially those with young children; but since when has living the Christian life and doing the right thing been easy and without sacrifices, pain, and ridicule?

Shame on you, Mr. Houston, for whining about having to make a difficult choice! The choice you're talking about making is not a life or death matter. We can live without Disney and Disney products. I do agree that I don't like being put in this position, but the SBC didn't put me in this position; Mr. Eisner did. I did also agree that we need more clean, family-oriented entertainment choices such as those that Disney has produced in the past. It's up to us as the Christian community to provide this entertainment and support those who do provide this type of entertainment.

As for not being able to stomp out sin because of its domination of our world, I would agree up to a point, but we must not quit opposing sin wherever we encounter it. In order to be for something, you must necessarily be against something. A wise man once said, "In order to be for gardens you must be against weeds." The Baptist position on gambling has been well-documented for a long time; no action was necessary on this matter. By the way, churches did have an opportunity for input; that's what messengers to the convention are there for.

James L. Kittrell  
Saucier

## Disagrees with SBC

Editor:

R.K. Houston can speak for me anytime! Boycotting Disney is so

self-righteous. We cannot police every corporation; yes, stand up and say we disapprove, but to boycott? I totally disagree with SBC delegates on this one.

I took my children to see "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," and explained to my 9-year-old that we don't always agree with those in leadership; we must, with the help of the Holy Spirit, make decisions ourselves. The latest Disney movie is wonderful, full of moral teachings, and even has a prayer song. I was very moved.

If I had obeyed the boycott, my family and I would have missed the best Disney film in years! Disney is not a church. We can not hold it to our Christian standards. But we can enjoy the fruits of a company that is at least trying to provide us with family entertainment.

If you are so afraid of homosexuality, then educate your children about it and they will not be led astray by insinuations and subtle suggestions. Keep communication open with your children. They will learn to live in this world, rather than hide from its evil. Down with the Disney boycott!

Tracy Rester  
Picayune

## Boycott gave courage

Editor:

I am glad Southern Baptists are boycotting Disney! A year ago I said to my husband, "If we weren't Christians, Disney would rule our household." I have two children, ages 3 and 5. Disney knows how to market their products to children; my children want everything they see, from clothing to toys to backpacks to Happy Meals, etc., with the current Disney characters featured.

I must disagree with R.K. Houston, whose guest opinion was featured in the June 27 issue. He obviously is remembering the Disney of yesteryear and has not seen the new movies with young children in mind. In my opinion, Disney's downhill trend began with "Little Mermaid" who wore a very skimpy bikini top. Jasmine in "Aladdin" also wore revealing, seductive clothing. "Pocahontas" and the "Lion King" were definitely New Age, with characters talking to the spirits of other characters who had passed away. I haven't seen "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," but I've read reviews which say the main female character is even more seductive than the above mentioned. And I want to take my preschoolers to see this?

Also, what about the Gay and Lesbian Day at the Disney theme parks? What if my family had planned a vacation and we showed up unknowingly on that day?

I'm glad Southern Baptists are boycotting Disney! It gives me the courage to do what I've already been thinking that I need to do!

Suzy Valentine Kolb  
Greenwood



# capsules

**PRAYER REQUESTED FOR MEXICAN BAPTIST LEADERS:** MEXICO CITY (BP) — Southern Baptists were asked to pray for Mexican Baptist leaders Rolando and Edna Gutierrez. Gutierrez, pastor of Horeb Baptist Church in Mexico City and president of the Mexican Baptist Convention, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. His wife, Edna, who has served as president of Mexico's Woman's Missionary Union, suffers from cancer.

**MISSOURI BAPTISTS' EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIRES:** JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Donald V. Wideman has announced his retirement as executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, effective Aug. 31, 1997. Wideman, 68, made the formal announcement during the quarterly meeting of the MBC executive board July 9. The board accepted his retirement announcement and elected a search committee to seek his successor. "There are no living ex-executive directors (in Missouri); my ambition is to be the first," he said. Wideman noted the past two executive directors, Earl O. Harding and Rheubin L. South, both died in office, Harding from a heart attack and South from leukemia.

**PATE RETIRING FROM BSSB AFTER 40 YEARS IN SBC WORK:** NASHVILLE (BP) — Billie J. Pate, associate director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division, has announced plans to retire, effective Sept. 30, following a 40-year career in denominational work. After her retirement, Pate will serve one year as a special consultant to Bill Taylor, director of the Bible teaching-reaching division. Taking over many of her administrative duties will be Dick Gillespie, currently senior manager of the division's management support section. Gillespie has been named director of a newly formed Administrative Management Department, effective Oct. 1.

**ELECTRONIC INDECENCY HEADED TO HIGH COURT:** WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP) — Two recent court rulings on indecency — one involving cyberspace, the other cable TV — seem headed for a showdown before the U.S. Supreme Court. A U.S. district court in Pennsylvania supported a challenge to the Communications Decency Act on June 12, thus preventing the government from enforcing the new federal law against indecency in cyberspace. "As the most participatory form of mass speech yet developed, the Internet deserves the highest protection from governmental intrusion," wrote U.S. District Judge Stewart Dalzell. "We are not pleased with the ruling," said Will Dodson, legal counsel and director of government relations for the Christian Life Commission. "I don't think the First Amendment was conceived to protect pornography," he added. "The court has embraced moral relativism."

## Louisiana College profs sue state conservatives

PINEVILLE, La. (BP) — Four Louisiana College professors have filed suit against the "Louisiana Baptist Conservative Resurgency" for distributing what they claim are defamatory and derogatory statements meant to harm their professional and moral reputations.

The lawsuit was filed by professors Carlton Winbery, Fred Downing, James Heath, and Connie Douglas against Leon Hyatt of Pineville and others who were involved in the publication of a packet of letters early last summer. The college itself is not involved in the suit.

The president of the Louisiana Convention, Michael Claunch, a Slidell pastor, denied the charges. Although not named specifically in the suit, Claunch said conservatives in Louisiana had tried over and over to resolve their grievances with the faculty but to no avail.

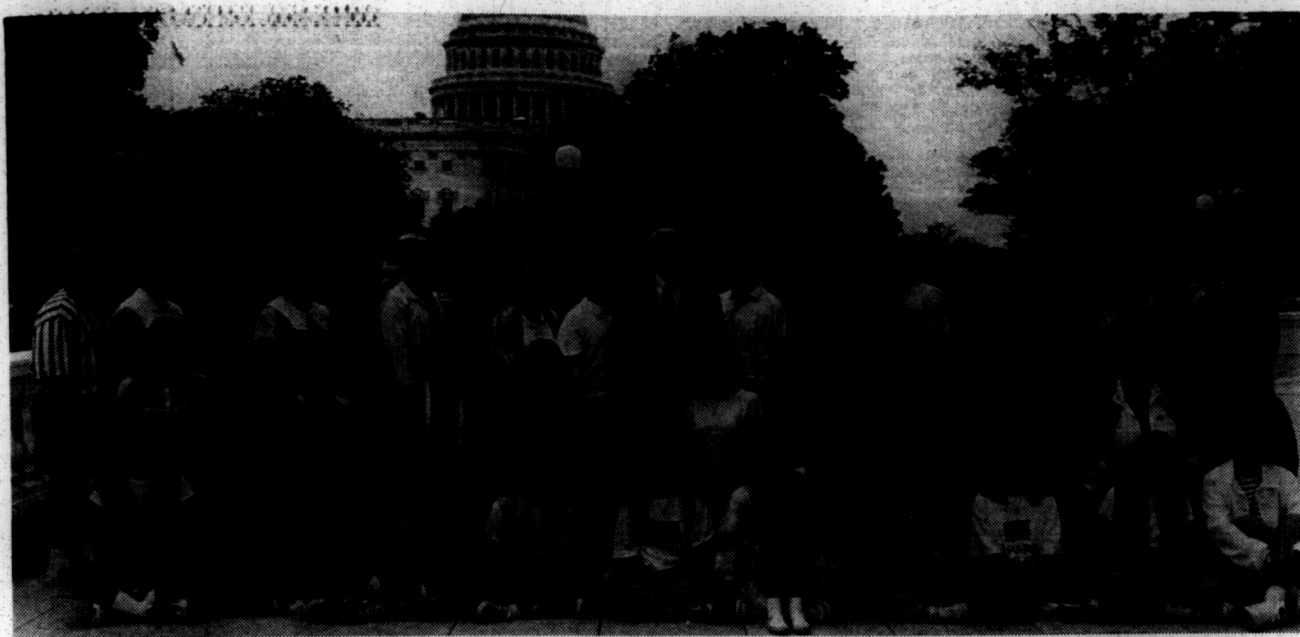
"It is not our (conservatives') desire that these matters go before a secular court," he said. "The Scriptures strictly forbid one Christian from suing another.... If, however, these plaintiffs insist on bringing the truth out in a secular court of law, we

have no choice...."

The lawsuit says the letters distributed by the group allege the plaintiffs, taught in violation of traditional Christian values, assigned and exposed students to pornographic materials, accepted homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle, justified and approved of sexual impurity, engaged in or approved of displays of nudity, condoned the use of profanity, disparaged the sanctity of human life, declined to recognize the divine inspiration of the Bible, saw the Bible as no more significant than other books on religion, expressed disbelief in biblical miracles and departed from the biblical and moral roots held by most Louisiana Baptists.

"Such statements attack the basic moral character of a minister of God and professor of religion, wrongfully offering up these plaintiffs for public ridicule based upon the political agenda of those who may disagree with them on finer points of theology," the filed lawsuit argues.

— Adapted from the *Baptist Message*, Louisiana Baptists' newsjournal, with additional reporting by Herb Hollinger.



## FBC, Bruce, performs in D.C.

The youth choir of First Church, Bruce, recently travelled to Washington, D.C., and Arlington, Va., to participate in the world-renowned choral festival "America Sings!" The performance on the grounds of the Washington Monument included 4,000 choristers from around the country in individual and massed

concerts. In addition to that performance, the choir participated in D.C.-area service projects and ministries. Under the direction of Gabriel Statom, associate minister of music, the choir has earned superior ratings at the State Youth Choir Festival. Don McMaster is minister of music; Charles Nestor is pastor.

## Staff Changes

**Southside Church, Vicksburg,** has called **Sammy J. McDonald** as pastor, effective June 2. A native of Crystal Springs, McDonald is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and Evangel University. He is former minister of education/outreach at Harmony Church, Copiah Association.

**First Church, Calhoun City,** has called **Joey Beeson** as minister of youth and children, effective July 1. A native of Brookhaven, he received his education at Copiah-Lincoln Community College and Mississippi State University. He

previously served as part time youth minister at First Church, Mathiston. Anthony S. Kay is pastor of First Church.

**Bogue Chitto Church, Bogue Chitto,** has called **Bill Hudson** as pastor, effective June 10. He received his education at New Orleans Seminary and Covington Theological Seminary. He previously served at Highland Church, Crystal Springs.

**New Haven Church, Terry,** has called **Richard Floyd** as pastor, effective May 12.

**McCall Creek Church,** Franklin Association, has called **Eugene L. Roberts** as pastor. A native of Birmingham, Ala., Roberts received his education at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as director of missions for Lincoln and Copiah Association.

**Keith Bennett** has resigned as associate pastor/minister of music at **First Church, Greenwood.** He has accepted a position of associate pastor/minister of music in Anchorage, Alaska.

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# Just for the Record

Thursday, July 25, 1996



**McDowell Road Church, Jackson**, recently held a missions recognition service for its Mission Friends (top photo), GAs (middle photo), RAs (bottom photo), and Acteens. The theme was "Pilgrimage of Praise." Missions Friends (from left) are: Angel Smith, Candace Chapman, Wesley King, Courtney Parman, Anna Regan Owens, and Brenda Smith. GAs (from left) are: front row, Nikki Ward, Jenny Griffin, Kimberly King, Ashley Duke, Samantha Foskitt, Margaret Powers, Mallory Majors; back row, Courtney Ramsey, Kim Paxson, Lauren Rust, Karen Smith, Angie Harris, Sara Powers, and Tiffany Swartz. RAs (from left) are: front row, James McCarter, Josh Griffin, Josh Ramsey, Cody Majors, Michael McCarter, Eric Woods; back row, Matthew Smith, Jason Bruce, Daniel Bruce, David Drake, David Clark, and Clifford Swartz.



**Members of New Life Church, Leaf**, held a note burning for their church building on May 19. Jerry Rawls is pastor.



**Briar Hill Church, Rankin Association**, held an Acteen recognition service on June 5. Acteens completing requirements for queen level (from left) are: Jenny Little, Lacy Little, Jennifer Odom, Candace Smith, Lindsey Walker, and Jessica Yarbrough. Leaders are Alma Jo Kennedy, Ashlee Gregory, and Penny Williams.



**The Mississippi College China Teaching Team** was commissioned on June 8. The team of nine English teachers will spend four weeks teaching on Hainan Island. Teresa Floyd of Clinton will lead the group presenting oral English workshops in Haikou City, Hainan Province, PRC. Five teachers will work at Hainan University. The other four teachers will work at the Haikou Daren Training Centre with elementary age students. Participants in this year's team are (from left) Gwen Stewart, Florence; Janice Wallace, Jackson; Floyd; George Pittman, Clinton; Christi Wall, Clinton; Pat DeBlanc, Osyka; Dianne Williams, Hammond, La.; and Heidi Cheatham, Madison. Not pictured is Jennifer Jones of Palatka, Fla.



**First Church, Lucedale**, held its GA recognition service on May 26. Those honored (from left) are: Jami Pitts; Shelly Martin; Whitney Martin; Peggy Curd, GA director; Lindsey Gardner; Rachel Wilson; Lindsay Rae Cowart; Lori Harrell; Dana Parker and Debbie Brannan, GA leaders. Not pictured are Stephanie Schultz and Rosemary Roberts, GA leader.

**Holly Bluff Church, Holly Bluff**, is seeking to purchase 50-75 Baptist Hymnals, 1975 edition, preferably maroon or red color. Contact Mrs. Lamar Majors, P.O. Box 61, Holly Bluff, MS 39088, or call (601) 828-3426.

**Leawood Church, Memphis**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Nov. 9-10. They are trying to compile a mailing list of all former members. To be included, contact the church at 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122; telephone (901) 324-7169.

**The Institute for Christian Leadership** at Mississippi College (MC) will host a conference Aug. 12-13 on "Preaching on the Holy Spirit." Brian Harbour, pastor of First Church, Richardson, Texas,

will give seven lectures on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Harold T. Bryson, professor at MC, will give three lectures on the power of the Holy Spirit in the preaching event. The fee will be \$30 for individuals, \$40 for couples.

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**Pleasant Hill Church, Bogue Chitto**, will celebrate its 140th anniversary on Aug. 4 beginning at 9:45 a.m. Tim McCaffrey of Florence will be the guest speaker for the worship service; the Heightsmen Quartet will provide special music. Dinner on the grounds will be served at noon. There will be no night service. Floyd Higginbotham is pastor.

**A Clarke College reunion** will be held Aug. 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Fine Arts Auditorium on the old Clarke College campus. Hal Bates of First Church, Collinsville, will bring a message; Buddy McElroy will direct the Clarke College Choir reunion. A luncheon is scheduled for former faculty and staff. For more information, call (601) 646-5960 or 635-2911.

**The Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education** and School of Nursing will offer BIB 120: Introduction to the New Testament during the 1996 first fall semester for Delta area students. Registration will be held at the Delta Regional Medical Center in Greenville, Sept. 5, 5:30 p.m. Jon Doler, pastor of First Church, Leland, will teach the class. For more information call Carole Moore at (601) 925-3265.

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# Bill Gothard seminar scheduled in Jackson

A Bill Gothard Institute in Basic Life Principles seminar will be held July 29-Aug. 3 at First Church, Jackson.

The event, described in promotional materials as, "A seminar on how to apply seven biblical principles to resolve basic conflicts and discover purpose in life," will run from 7-10 p.m. on July 29-Aug. 1; 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. on Aug. 2; and 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. on Aug. 3.

The seven biblical principles to

## Vacation Bible Schools

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be covered are responsibility, success, authority, freedom, suffering, ownership, and design.

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Registration rates are \$75 per individual; \$125 per married couple; \$50 per spouse of alumnus; \$50 per family member.

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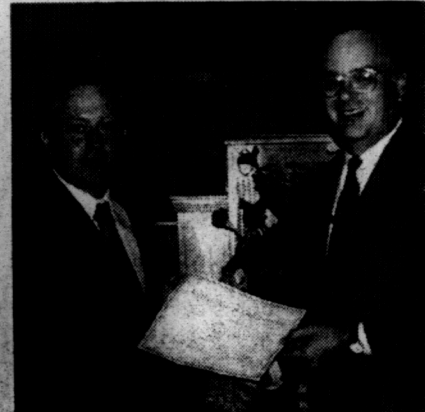
Thursday, July 25, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Names in the News



**Mount Vernon Church, Lauderdale,** recently ordained **David Howse** and **Shane Simmons** as deacons. George Anderson gave the ordination service. Pictured (from left) are Frank Tribble, pastor; Howse; Simmons; and Bobby Beasley, chairman of deacons.



**Highland Church, Crystal Springs,** ordained **Danny Sims** (left) as a deacon on Sunday evening, June 2. **Bill Hudson** (right) is pastor.



**Kevin Clifton Jr.** (right) was ordained to the gospel ministry at Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport, April 14, and received a Bible and a certificate. He was honored at a fellowship following the 6:30 p.m. service. Clifton is now serving as pastor of Crane Creek Church in Hancock County. **Craig Conner** (left) is pastor of Michael Memorial Church.



**First Church, Lake,** elected four new deacons recently. They are **James Wade** (second from left), **Barry Clanton**, **Eddie Nester**, and **George Tadlock**. A deacon ordination service was held on June 23 for Clanton, Nester, and Tadlock. **LaVerne Summerlin**, pastor (far left), gave the charge to the deacons. **Victor Vaughn** of Oak Grove Church, Lake, gave the charge to the church.



**Dave Sanders**, a student at William Carey College, was licensed by Grace Church, Philadelphia, on June 9. He is pictured with **Dennis Duvall**, pastor.



**Effie Jones** (center), church/pastor's secretary for 22 years at First Church, Kosciusko, was honored at a reception on June 16 for her retirement. **Barry Corbett** (left) is pastor. **Guy Barrett** (right) is chairman of the personnel committee. Barrett presented Jones an engraved silver tray on behalf of the church.

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**McDonald**

**Larry S. McDonald**, pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon, was graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary on May 18 with the doctor of ministry degree. McDonald, a native of Jackson, also holds degrees from

Mississippi College and the International School of Theology with Campus Crusade for Christ. He is married to the former Tina Stewart of Jackson. They are the parents of three children, Benjamin, Rebecca, and Jessica.

**James David Keith** of Vicksburg was graduated May 17 from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga., with the bachelor of arts degree.



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# Revival Dates

**Second, Calhoun City:** July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, homecoming service, 1:30 p.m.; Carl Morris, Bruce, guest speaker; revival, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Billy Credille, Pittsboro, evangelist; Jeff Howell, pastor.

**Bethesda, Crawford:** July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Harvey Reeves, Aberdeen, evangelist; Dudley and Linda Brasher, Shannon, music; James Hutcherson, pastor.

**Ethel, Ethel:** July 28-31; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., covered dish meal following services, 7 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Oda "Tuck" Roberts, West Monroe, La., evangelist; Doug Hubbard, Kosciusko, music; Keith Dowden, pastor.

**Antioch, Brandon:** July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Lannie Wilbourn, Brandon, evangelist; Travis Watkins, Lake, music; Marion Spence, pastor.

**Rockey Point, Carthage:** July 28-Aug. 2; Jim Hill and family, Melvin, Ala., preaching and singing; William Wright, pastor.

**McCall Creek (Franklin):** July 26-28; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; David and Ruth Luncford, music; Eugene Roberts, pastor.

**New Providence, Hazlehurst:** July 28-Aug. 2; 7 p.m.; Gene Henderson, Brandon, evangelist; James T. Dykes, New Providence Church, music; James D. Whittington, pastor.

**Bethlehem, Forkville:** July 28-Aug. 1; Sunday, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship service, noon fellowship meal, 6:45 p.m. worship service; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Cary Kimbrell, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; John Alumbaugh, Forest, music; Johnny Beaver, pastor.

**Mt. Zion (Simpson):** July 29-Aug. 2; 7:30 p.m., nightly; Danny Berry, Puckett, evangelist; Lewis Roberts, music; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

**Mt. Nebo, Collinsville:** July 28-31; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., Discipleship Training, 6 p.m., and worship, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James White, Salem Church, Leake County, evangelist; Al Smith, Mt. Nebo, music; Danny Purser, pastor.

**Liberty (Mississippi):** Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, evangelist; Tony Hinton, Wesson, music; Martin Hayden, pastor.

**Wheeler Grove, Corinth:** Aug. 4-9; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard,

pastor, preaching; Heismen, special music.

**Kolola Springs, Caledonia:** Aug. 4-7; Ben Yarber, guest speaker; call 356-6037 for more information.

**Hepzibah, Silver Creek:** Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Reagan Rye, Artesia, evangelist; Dudley Williamson, Society Hill, music; Paul Wilbourn, pastor.

**Rocky Springs (Yazoo):** Aug. 2-4; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. Blain McLain, Mendenhall, evangelist; Bill Price, Jackson, music; James Tucker, pastor.

**Blythe Creek, Mathiston:** Aug. 4-9; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Gary Jackson, evangelist; Gail Dorroh, music; Danny Irvin, pastor.

**Old Union, Shannon:** Aug. 11-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Albert Wilkerson, Memphis, evangelist; Jimmy Chapman, Tupelo, music; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

**Clear Springs, Coffeeville:** Aug. 11-16; 7:30 p.m.; Mark Worsham, Winona, evangelist; Lonnie Waller, pastor.

**Swiftwater, Greenville:** July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Fri., 6 p.m.; Jerry Bingham, Charleston, evangelist.

**Old Fellowship (Jasper):** July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, homecoming; Shannon Burns, evangelist; Roger Ivey, pastor.

**Crowder (North Delta):** July 28-Aug. 2; 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Hugh Plunkett, Clarksdale, music; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

**Evansville, Coldwater:** July 28-Aug. 2; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; John Perkins, Northwest Association director of missions, evangelist; Bobby Whittington, music; Bernette Fielder, pastor.

**Tyro, Senatobia:** July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7:30 nightly;

## Missionary News

**Rachel DuBard**, missionary to West Africa, is on the field (address: 01 B.P. 6491, Abidjan 01, Ivory Coast). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Carroll County and lived in Jefferson.

**Jerald and Elaine Perrill**, missionaries to Thailand, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 832, Bangkok 10501, Thailand). He was born in Ellsworth, Kan., and considers Boulder, Colo., his hometown. She is the former Elaine Fortenberry of Monticello.

Oscar Geeslin, evangelist; Otho Geeslin, music; Gary Newton, pastor.

**Harmony (Lincoln):** July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon lunch, and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Fortenberry, Gum Grove, evangelist; Buddy Russell, Arlington, music; Wilson Winstead, pastor.

**Mt. Pleasant (Smith):** July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Keith Bogan, evangelist; Latrelle Crumpton, music; Carey Bass, pastor.

**Calvary, Silver Creek:** July 28-31; 7 p.m. nightly; Sonny Adkins, MBCB evangelism director, evangelist; Tim Moak, music; Leon Wallace, pastor.

**Athens (Monroe):** July 31-Aug. 4; no service Aug. 3; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Jim Harrington, Monroe Association director of missions, evangelist; Julian Thompson, pastor.

**AVAILABLE FROM FBC Pontotoc:** "A Walk of Faith," History of First Baptist Church — price: \$25, postage: \$5; "The Sunny South Cookbook" — price: \$10, postage: \$3. Make check payable to: First Baptist Church, 31 Washington St., Pontotoc, MS 38863; (601) 489-1346.

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# Homecomings

**Crooked Creek, Silver Creek:** Aug. 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish meal, noon; afternoon singing, Sweet Harmony; Larue Stephens, guest speaker; Mike Grenn, pastor.

**Antioch, Columbus:** July 28; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; Joe Joyner, Decatur, Ala., former pastor, guest speaker; Edward N. Knox, pastor.

**County Line, Carthage:** July 28; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 12:15 p.m.; afternoon singing; Roger Howe, pastor.

**Mt. Zion (Simpson):** July 28; 10:30 a.m.; dinner at noon; afternoon service; Gary Strehlow and Hopson Frank Smith, speakers; Lewis Roberts, music; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

**First, Morton:** July 28; worship, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; covered dish dinner, 12:30 p.m.; 1:45-2:45 p.m. service; program participants include former pastors, music, youth and education

directors; Frank Nix, minister of music and youth; Louis Smith, interim pastor.

**Rocky Springs (Yazoo):** Aug. 4; 11 a.m.; noon meal; Blair McLain, Mendenhall, guest speaker; Bill Price, guest singer; James Tucker, pastor.

**Society Hill, Oakvale:** Aug. 4; 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall, James McLemore, guest speaker; Russell Williamson, Oakvale, guest singer; Glen Nelson, pastor.

**Big Springs, Brookhaven:** Aug. 4; 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:15 p.m. singing; Randy Farmer, Pass Christian, guest speaker; Eric P. Naquin, pastor.

**Calvary, Silver Creek:** July 28; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon service, 1 p.m.; Leon Wallace, pastor.

**Antioch, Brandon:** July 28; 11 a.m.; noon meal; Marion Spence, pastor, speaker; revival begins at 7 p.m.

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,** Florence, Miss., is seeking an individual for the position of Minister of Music/Education. Resume may be sent to First Baptist Church, 102 E. Main St., Florence, MS 39073, Attn: Personnel Committee.



## Uniform Never alone



By Jim Phillips  
Psalm 139

Before I became a parent myself, I never understood how my folks would track me down just to tell me they were thinking about me. Now as the father of three boys, I find myself pondering their activities while we're apart. In this week's lesson, the psalmist ponders how God keeps him in his mind and heart. The sheer thought of God having us on his mind should speak volumes to us whenever we feel as though loneliness is overtaking us. Even a casual reading of Psalm 139 should rush the assurance of God's knowledge of us into any fearful situation.

**His unlimited knowledge (vv. 1-6).** To some it would be threatening, to others comforting, to realize that God knows our very whereabouts at any given moment. Not only that, he knows our very thoughts whether we were awake or asleep. For God to know us simply implies his personal, intimate, and relational knowledge of all his children (vv. 1, 2, 4, 6, 23). The psalmist was obviously moved to the point of being comforted by God's knowledge of him. With him being in the very thoughts of God, fear was replaced with confident assurance. He was literally surrounded by comforting grace.

**His abiding presence (vv. 7-12).** When Jesus told his disciples, "... And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," he was personalizing what the psalmist declared here. To know that you're not alone while walking the dark paths of life, enables us to proceed not alone but accompanied. Even the darkest night is light before God. We're never obscured from his eyes or his grasp.

Most people can recount a time when they were growing up when fear surrounded them. It might have been a night while witnessing the flash of lightning around the window sill. It might have been walking down a road after dark with the sounds of the creatures that tend to move about only in darkness. Even then we might have called out for the assuring voice of a parent or a friend. Just the knowledge of not being alone had a positive affect on our emotional and psychological state. It's even more so with the Lord's abiding presence.

**His creative power (vv. 13-14).** This passage has a quality of impact to be found nowhere else in all of God's Word. With these words, the psalmist has declared a truth that combats all voices that strike out against the unborn. From the very point of conception, God is fully knowledgeable of our whereabouts. Since he knit us together in the recesses of the womb, he can certainly keep up with us as we venture through life. For that awareness, the psalmist broke forth in praise. It is this idea that led Ethel Waters to proclaim: "I'm me and I'm wonderful, because God don't make no junk."

**His internal probing (vv. 23-24).** Because God was his Creator and Sustainer, the psalmist sensed a deep need to be inspected within by his Spirit. He desired for his life to be reflective of his knowledge of God. Out of such deep appreciation to God, he wanted his life to be free of anything offensive or sinful.

If all of us would develop such a sensitivity before God, the same things that are repulsive to him would also be repulsive to us. An honest examination before God's probing Spirit would surface perhaps areas that are offensive to him and thus handicapping our relationship with him.

The psalmist in essence was saying, "Put me to the test Lord. Bring upon my life situations and circumstances that reveal who I really am before you." By doing this, he believed he could then make all things right before his creator which would enhance his walk and fellowship with God.

If we feel as though we were walking alone through life, could it be because we've allowed people or things to cloud our relationship before God? Maybe the sense of loneliness we feel is a result of our own negligence or sin that has forced God away from our awareness? He hasn't moved, we have. His desire is to be allowed to overcome and overtake our loneliness. Then, and only then can, we know and experience his unmistakable presence and blessing.

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

## Bible Book Seals of judgment



By Ronald Bishop  
Revelation 6, 7

After Jesus stepped forward to open the scrolls, John witnessed the opening of the seals. Each seal seems to signify a significant event in the unfolding of time. In interpreting the opening of the seals, one must remember that John's first readers were under severe persecution. Their faith was being tested frequently by Roman leaders who demanded that Christians confess Caesar as their lord. The opening of the seals seems to point to two truths: history will contain cataclysmic events, and people will be rewarded or punished based on their relationship with God.

**The four horsemen (6:1-8).** The first four seals opened reveal four horsemen on horses of different colors. The white horse had a crowned rider carrying a bow. He went out to conquer, probably indicating war that permeates human history. The red horse was ridden by one who took peace from the earth, probably denoting the violence that seems to characterize human society of all generations. The black horse's rider carried a set of scales and seems to symbolize disruption of commerce, such as occurs due to war and other catastrophes. The pale-colored horse's rider was named Death and was followed by Hades, signifying, of course, death and judgment. These four seals seem to point out that God's plan for human history contains some unpleasant occurrences with which everyone must contend. John wanted his readers to know that God was aware of the things that were happening to them.

**God's care of his own (6:9-17).** The next two seals opened point to the fact of the great persecution under which Christians found themselves during Domitian's reign. At the opening of the fifth seal, John saw the souls of those who had died because of their faith. They had one question for God: when would their deaths be avenged? "Those who dwell on the earth" is a metaphor for the enemies of God, not simply a reference to all people who lived on the earth. These martyrs wanted to know when God's justice would prevail. God's response to them served John's purpose well. They were given white robes, indicating their righteousness and reward. They also were told to rest a little longer until the remainder of those to be martyred met their fates. John wanted Christians under persecution to know that death is not the worst thing that can happen. He also plainly told them that their persecution would continue for a while. More of them would even die before God intervened. Yet they must be faithful, even if it cost their lives.

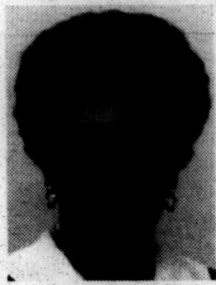
The opening of seal six points to the coming judgment of God and the end of time. These events are suggested by the great calamities in nature that occur with the opening of this seal. The disruption of the normal behavior of the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, and sky all point to great calamity. People would become frantic. Common people as well as kings and generals all feared for their lives and wanted to hide from the great calamity they were witnessing. John wanted his readers to know that the things they faced were not the worst that could happen. They could be like the heathen when the end of the world should come. To avoid such a fate, they should resolve to be faithful to God and to withstand the persecution that the Romans were levying on them.

**A glimpse into glory (7:1-14).** John then saw God's angels who were holding back these terrible events until God's elect could be sealed or protected. The symbolic number of the elect is 144,000, or 12x12x10x10x10, a number indicating exact completion. None of God's people would be excluded. In addition, a great multitude, composed of those who had been found faithful despite persecution, surrounded the throne of God and praised him. John wanted his readers to know that God takes care of his own. Though people persecute God's faithful, God rewards them with eternal life.

John wanted his readers to know that whether they faced the common disasters of human life or the persecution of Rome, their concern must be to remain faithful to God. Death was to be preferred to unfaithfulness.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

## Life and Work Turning house to home



By Cynthia Douglas  
Proverbs 17-31

How can I strengthen my home? First, realize a difference exists between a building to live in and a home. Home is defined in Webster's dictionary as "the abiding place of the affections, and the social unit formed by a family living together."

Second, understand God intended for believers to have Christian homes where individuals are valued and his love prevails. Proverbs 33:3 states: "The Lord's curse is on the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous."

**Promote harmony (Prov. 17:1,6).** A godly home provides peace and contentment. Verse 1 says it is better to eat a dry crust in peace than to have a feast with strife. Verse 6 shows generations are interdependent in that grandchildren are wonderful and parents are the pride of their children. Each generation has the choice to bring honor or shame to the family.

Therefore, one way to strengthen the home is to place the focus on proper personal relationships rather than on financial prosperity. Another way to promote harmony is to express mutual love and respect for all members. This harmony or mutual love could be compared to a roof of a house — it covers, protects, and shields the inhabitants.

**Avoid destructive actions (Prov. 6:32; 12:4).** Sexual pleasure between a husband and wife is part of God's plan for marriage. However, God speaks sternly about any sexual activity outside the bonds of marriage. In 6:32, God says anyone who commits adultery lacks judgment and destroys his life. Just as a drop of water causes ripples, so adultery brings shame and disgrace to other people.

A strong contrast is made between a good wife who is a treasure to her husband and a bad wife who causes intense pain.

God clearly states his standards for husbands and wives. Sexual purity can be compared to the walls of a house. Purity says we live joyfully within the walls. These walls of sexual purity keep the husband and wife just for each other.

**Cultivate constructive actions (Prov. 20:7; 31:10-11, 28).** Children are quick to evaluate the words and actions of their parents. Therefore, a righteous father is the greatest inheritance a child can have. In Proverbs 31 a righteous wife is described as having a flawless character, more valuable to her husband than earthly riches, and is a helpmate to him. The best gift to a child is to live with a parent who models a godly lifestyle.

Homes are strengthened by cultivating constructive actions. These actions can be compared to windows of a house — they let God's love shine in on the family. People are welcomed to look in on a happy, godly family. There is no need for curtains, there is nothing to hide.

**Teach your children well (Prov. 4:3-4; 22:6; 29:17).** In Proverbs 4:3-4, the father passes on truths which he learned as a child. Teaching a child involves a child who is submissive and open to instruction, and a wiser person who offers guidance and instruction. Adults have nothing more important in their lives than to train their children in godliness. Teaching is a lifelong process for the parent which involves discipline, a godly lifestyle, and the knowledge of God's Word.

Teaching our children could be compared to the doors of a house. Doors provide direction, opportunity, and security.

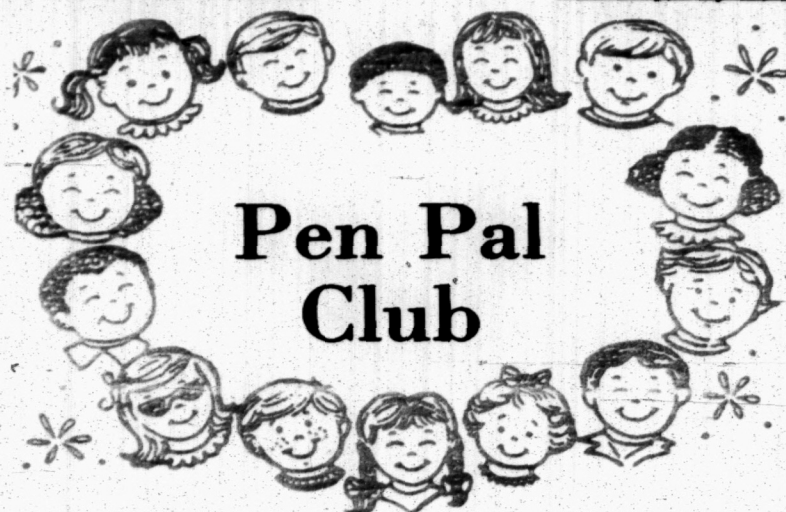
How are you turning your house into a home? Remember God has given guidelines for each family member. When God's Word is obeyed, great joys come to relationships. Are you checking the roof, walls, windows, and doors of your family?

Is your home a testimony of your love for God and his love for you? Whatever your status in life, commit your dwelling place to be a godly home.

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.



## CHILDREN'S PAGE



## Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Kayla Barlow. I am 8 years old. My hobbies are: talking on the phone, roller blading, watching TV, swimming, playing the piano, and playing Barbies. My birthday is Dec. 5, 1987. I go to Wesson Church. Write to:  
P.O. Box 181  
Wesson, MS 39191

Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Ashley Aldridge. I'm 9, and going in the fourth grade. I go to Centerville Academy. I would like a girl or boy pen pal. My hobbies are swimming, softball, talking on the phone, reading, riding my bike, playing with friends, dodge ball, spending time with family, listening to my radio, and skating. I have a brother named Casey and he is 7 years old. I have one cat and one dog. I like country, Christian, and rock music.

Write any time to:  
3712 Lewis Lane  
Gloster, MS 39638.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Kristen Rogers, and I will be in the fourth grade next year, and I am 9 years old. My birthday is the 16th of January, 1987. My hobbies are swimming, shopping, reading, listening to music, and talking on the phone.

Write to:  
339 Socrates Rd.  
Kilmichael, MS 39747.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Ashley Hutto. I am 11 years old. I would really like to have have a pen pal, boy or girl. My hobbies are reading and skating. I am a Christian, and I attend First Church, Clara. I would like to hear from someone soon.

40 Tony Hutto Rd.  
Waynesboro, MS 39367.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi. My name is Taylor Ray. I'm 9 years old. My hobbies are swimming, baseball, watching TV, reading, and listening to music. I'm in the fourth grade. I don't care if you're a boy or girl. Send me your picture.

155 McRight Rd.  
Ackerman, MS 39735.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi. My name is Brandi Jenkins. I am 11 and a half and going into the sixth grade. My birthday is Jan. 23, 1985. I am a PK and I am a Christian. And my mom is going to have a baby in July. I have two dogs, Lady and Midnight; and one cat, J.J. My hobbies are playing basketball, softball, reading, fishing. A boy or girl will be fine.

Please send a picture of yourself if you have one. Write to:

Rt. 2, Box 80  
Mantee, MS 39751.  
P.S. I go to Cross Roads Church.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Heather Head. I am 11 years old. I have one sister. I love animals, especially horses. My hobbies are riding horses, singing, painting, and playing the piano. I love climbing trees and walking in the woods. Please write to:

318 Starkey St.  
Poplarville, MS 39470.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hey. My name is Heather Jordan. I am 10 years old. I go to Wellman Church. I am a Christian. I go to Enterprise School. I am going into the fifth grade. I have a sister who is 9, and a brother who is 6. My hobbies are skating, playing baseball, and talking on the phone. I would like a girl or boy.

Write to:  
1583 Hunters Rd.  
Bogue Chitto, MS 39629.

Dear Pen Cal Club,

Hello. My name is Lesley Ann Jordan. I am 9 years old. I go to Weelman Church. I am a Christian. I go to Enterprise School. I am going into third grade. I like to watch "Are You Afraid of the Dark?"

Please write:  
1583 Hunters Rd.  
Bogue Chitto, MS 39629.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Don Taylor. I am 9, but in July I will be 10. I attend North Pontotoc. I have had some good teachers. I have one sister and five hobbies: playing, swimming, writing, drawing, and going to ball games. I am glad to be in a Pen Pal Club. I have some good friends. Some day you may be my friend. I have planned a trip this summer. I don't care who writes me, boy or girl. Write — I will write you back.

Rt. 1 Box 11042 Hwy. 9 N  
Belden, MS 38826.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hey! My name is Marilyn Parker. I live in Batesville. I am 12 years old. I would like a pen pal between the ages of 12 and 15. It doesn't matter if you are a girl or boy. I am going to be in the seventh grade at North Delta School. My hobbies are: playing softball, basketball, running, swimming, talking on the phone, and playing with my friends.

104 Jones St.  
Batesville, MS 38606



## Parent/child banquet

First Church, Itta Bena, recently held a parent/child mission banquet, attended by about 70 people. Certificates and awards were presented to the children. The preschool choir presented a music program of "Songs Around the World." Mission Friends (photo above, left) who sang for the banquet were (left to right): front row, Alex Fulgham, Jacob Mitchell, Tripp Pittman, Josh Rambo; back row, Kevin Mueller, Chelsea Pittman, Kallye Hudgens, and Roland Webster. Leaders are Mary Grant, Sybil Fulgham, and Alice Murphey.

RAs (photo above, right) who participated were: front row, Justin Mueller, Johnny Ray Brasel, Brice Fulgham, leader Gary Fulgham; back row, Kenny Mueller, Ral Prestidge, Brad Tackett, and Brandon Fulgham.

GAs (photo at right) who participated were: front row, Anita Charles Lovelace, Kristi Vail, Melissa Pigott,



Avery Prestidge; back row, Melanie Hudgens, Mindy Brasel, Erin Hopkins, and Mandy Land. GA leaders are Shirley Fulgham and Janet Prestidge.



New Hebron Church (Lawrence Association) was well-represented at the State Young Musicians Choral Festival held in Clinton. The group of fourth- through sixth-graders earned a superior rating in the festival. They are (left to right): front row, Lacy Rostyak, Christy McCloud, Hope Lee, Katie McCool, Christopher McCloud; middle row, Ashley Bridges, Callie Walker, Kathryn Little, Jamie Sills, Kevin Butler, Adam Daughdrill; back row, Cassie Williams, Dawn Mayhugh, Jessica Daughdrill, Coby Williams, Patrick Sharp and Brandon Chavis.

## Bibliocipher

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KG VRS TZPS AZC ZUTQ LKUU K BFGKTR ZUU  
VRQTS VRZV USZB QG VRS VRDSTRQUA, LRKWR  
NKUU VRSKD PZTVSDT' RQFTST LKVR HKQUSGWS  
ZGA ASWSKV.

XSBZRZGKZR QGS: GKGS

This week's clue: G equals N.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Six: Sixty-Four.



The world's best-selling and most-widely distributed book is the Bible, which has been translated into 2,009 languages, and portions of it into a further 910 languages.

Baptist Record

Jul

005-DTM  
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901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE  
TN 37203-3620

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39202